

JAMES FAY.

---

JUNE 3, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. HURLEY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8300.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs have carefully considered the bill (H. R. 8300) to correct the naval record of James Fay, and have ascertained that Fay enlisted in the Navy, at New York, January 16, 1865, as a landsman, for three years; served on board the U. S. S. *Vermont* and *Shamrock* until July 1, 1865, after which date there is no further record of his service on file.

It further appears, from an examination of the records in the office of the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, that Fay enlisted in the Navy as a landsman January 16, 1865; served on board the U. S. S. *Vermont* and *Shamrock* until August 15, 1865, on which date he was transferred to the *Princeton*, and is marked on the rolls of that vessel, August 16, 1865, as having never reported. In view of the fact of record, as herein stated, he is regarded by the Navy Department as chargeable with desertion August 16, 1865, the date on which he is marked on the rolls of the *Princeton* as having "never reported," although he was not so marked.

In explanation of his failure to report on board the *Princeton*, Fay says he never heard of such assignment until reminded of it long afterwards. He says that the *Shamrock* came to Philadelphia from Albemarle Sound, North Carolina, on the 14th September, 1865, to go out of commission. There was great hurry for a few days, and, when she was dismantled, the whole crew, except the prisoners, got two weeks' furlough, to report at any naval station they wished. Nearly all of them came from New York and Brooklyn, and when asked where he wanted to report he named Brooklyn. The paymaster, he claims, who makes such transfers made a mistake and did not send his transfer to Brooklyn, for when he reported there the authorities knew nothing of it. The war then being closed, he concluded that his services were no longer needed, as was the case with many others at that time, who had little or no thought of the record they were carelessly making for themselves.

In view of all the facts cited, and of the fact that Fay's life and conduct have been above reproach in the community where he has resided since the war, the committee recommend the passage of the bill for his relief.